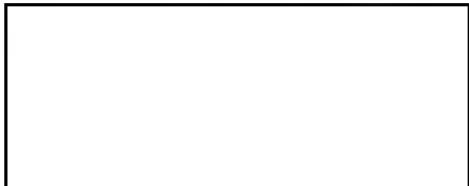
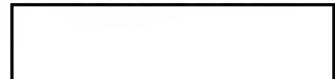


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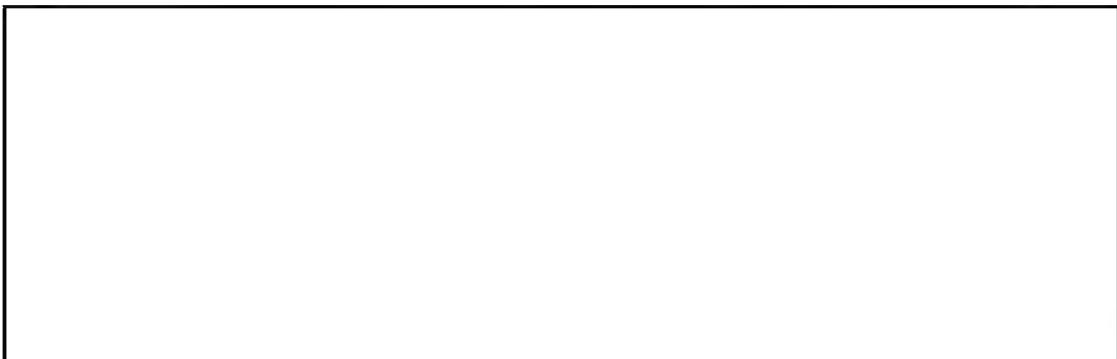


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DIA and DOS review(s)
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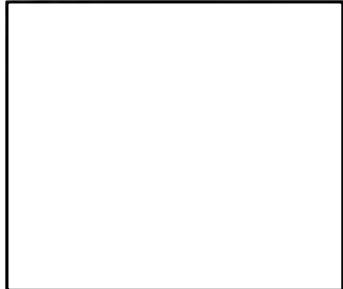
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2. PATHET LAO ATTACK REPORTED

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According to information given the American embassy in Vientiane by the Laotian defense minister, approximately 1,000 Pathet Lao troops attacked government forces in southwestern Sam Neua Province on 5 December. The defense minister thinks

this may be the start of the Pathet Lao offensive he has been expecting.

The Hanoi radio has already taken cognizance of military action in the area by quoting a Pathet Lao report that the royal government has launched "violent attacks."

Whether this action is only a continuation of the localized incidents which have occurred frequently over the past months or is actually the beginning of a Communist attempt to drive royal forces from the disputed northern provinces cannot now be determined. In the past, early reports on Pathet attacks have often exaggerated the numbers of troops involved.

The government may use an attack such as this as an excuse to launch an offensive of its own. The defense minister has favored a strong military response to any Pathet Lao action, and has been planning to take the offensive against the Communists after the 25 December national assembly elections.

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4. URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE TO
VISIT PEIPING

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[REDACTED]

Uruguay's honorary consul in Hong Kong told American consul general Drumwright on 6 December that he had instructions from Montevideo to go to Peiping to discuss the question of "relations" with the Chinese Communist government. He said he was leaving that day for Peiping and would be there two or three weeks.

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Comment

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No government in the western hemisphere maintains diplomatic relations with Communist China. Should Uruguay establish diplomatic relations, other Latin American governments might reassess the question of recognizing the Peiping regime.

[REDACTED]

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 6 December)

An exchange of mortar and automatic weapons fire across the Egyptian-Israeli border south of Gaza is the only military activity reported.

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Four IL-28 jet bombers were observed [redacted] Cairo West military airport on 3 December. The attaché noted considerable construction activity at this airport, including what appeared to be the lengthening of a runway.

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[redacted] reports increased flights by the Egyptian air force using British-type jet fighters and conventional training aircraft. In addition the Egyptian air force appears to be contacting retired officers, presumably with the idea of utilizing them to help handle an influx of new equipment.

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